United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service State Office 100 USDA, Suite 206 Stillwater, OK 74074-2655 Telephone (405) 742-1236

March 5, 2003

OKLAHOMA BULLETIN NO. OK440-3-5

SUBJECT: PGM - Revision to the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) Policy

<u>Purpose</u>: To provide offices with notification of the revision to the Conservation Program Manual, Part 514, Subpart C, Wetlands Reserve Program Ranking Criteria.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2003

NRCS has released a revision to the Conservation Program Manual, Part 514, Subpart C, Wetlands Reserve Program Ranking Criteria. The national policy was revised to elevate water quality as a required criteria for state developed application ranking criteria. State staff will be working with the WRP subcommittee for the State Technical Committee to revise the state WRP application evaluation criteria to reflect this change. A copy of the revised evaluation criteria will be transmitted to field offices and posted to the website at a later date. Field offices are encouraged to continue to publicize, promote, and accept applications for the WRP.

A copy of this revised policy may be accessed at the following: http://policy.nrcs.usda.gov/scripts/lpsiis.dll/M/M_440_514_c.htm. A formatted copy of the revision is attached for field offices to file in the Conservation Programs Manual. Filing instructions for this attachment:

Remove

Conservation Program Manual, Pages 514-C.1 through 514-C.7 (440-V-CPM, Amendment 2, October 2000)

Insert Attachment

Conservation Program Manual, Pages 514-C.1 through 514-C.7 (440-V-CPM, Amend. 14, February 2003)

Do not remove or replace page OK514.C.1 (440-V-CPM, Amend. OK4, July 1, 2002). This page remains current, as the supplemented paragraph of the CPM was not changed.

/s/ John Glover, Acting For

M. DARREL DOMINICK State Conservationist

Attachment

DIST: AO